

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1171

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU
SUBJECT: CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS: TIMING OF NICOSIA TALKS

REF: (A) STATE 95678; (B) NICOSIA 1154; (C) ANKARA 3233

1. REPRESENTATIONS BY COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND AMBASSADOR
MACOMBER ON TIMING OF NICOSIA TALKS PRODUCED RESULTS APRIL 28.
AT A COCKTAIL PARTY THAT EVENING TURKISH CYPRIOT OFFICIALS,
TURKISH EMBASSY OFFICERS AND VISITING TURKISH OFFICIALS ALL
INDICATED TO LOCAL UN OFFICIALS AND OTHER DIPLOMATS THAT TALKS
WOULD BEGIN "IN MAY." TURKISH CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR ONAN SAID HE
STILL PLANS TO GO TO LIBYA FOR ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS
CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, SO FIRST MEETING WOULD BE LATE IN MAY
RATHER THAN "MID" MONTH AS AGREED IN VIENNA.

2. ON APRIL 29, WE COMPARED NOTES WITH DE CULLAR AND GORGE
IN PREPARATION FOR AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR
PAPADOULOS. DE CUELLAR'S INCLINATION WAS TO PRESS FOR
ONE MEETING MAY 27 OR 28; ANOTHER JUNE 6 OR 7; AND TO
SCHEDULE A THIRD MEETING FOR MID-JUNE. WE NOTED THIS WOULD
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MEAN NO MEETING AT ALL DURING WEEK BEGINNING MAY 30 AND
ONLY TWO MEETINGS BEFORE DE CUELLAR'S DEPARTURE FOR
NEW YORK ON JUNE 8 OR 9. AMBASSADOR MADE STRONG SUGGESTION
THAT DE CUELLAR PROPOSE AT LEAST ONE MEETING DURING WEEK OF
MAY 30. HE UNDERSTOOD NEGOTIATORS COULD USEFULLY SPEND THREE
MEETINGS DISCUSSING QUESTIONS ARISING FROM VIENNA WHICH
NEED CLARIFICATION.

3. GORGE EXPLAINED THAT THE REASON THEY HAD NOT PLANNED TO HAVE A MEETING DURING THE PERIOD MAY 30-JUNE 4 WAS TO RESPECT DENKTASH'S IMPLICIT WISH NOT TO HAVE MEETINGS IN THE PERIOD "A FEW DAY BEFORE TURKISH ELECTIONS." WE POINTED OUT THAT DENKTASH HAD NOT WANTED TO HAVE ANY MEETING IN MAY. HE HAD APPARENTLY CHANGED HIS MIND ON THIS AND MIGHT WELL CHANGE IT AGAIN. IN ANY CASE, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO PRESS FOR ADDITIONAL MEETINGS THAN TO AVOID ASKING BECAUSE DENKTASH MIGHT OPPOSE. ON REFLECTION, DE CUELLAR AGREED TO PROPOSE THREE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE END OF MAY AND HIS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK. HE WOULD SPECIFY THAT TWO OF THESE SHOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE TURKISH ELECTIONS.

4. IN APRIL 29 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR MAIN POINTS (BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL) PAPADOPOULOS WAS FIRM THAT HE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ONE MEETING BEFORE UNSC DEBATE FOR SYMBOLIC PURPOSES. HE INSISTED THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE SEVERAL MEETINGS. AMBASSADOR CONCURRED AND INDICATED THAT WE WERE PRESSING LOCAL UN OFFICIALS STRONGLY TO PROPOSE AT LEAST TWO, BUT PREFERABLY THREE MEETINGS BEFORE DE CULLAR'S DEPARTURE.

5. COMMENT: DE CUELLAR'S APPROACH APPEARS A CASE OF CUTTING THE SUIT TO FIT THE CLOTH BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO URGE NOT LESS THAN THREE NEGOTIATING SESSIONS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK. CRAWFORD

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